

U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain/Argentina

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Proposed Spanish-Argentine Combine for the
Purchase and Distribution of Argentine
Meat

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. February 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

25X1A6a

LIBRARY COPY

25X1X6

1. A source in Madrid has related from memory the contents of four letters dealing with a proposal to arrange for the importation and sale of Argentine frozen meat in Spain, Italy and Switzerland. Two of the letters are from E. Bidegain Prieto of 21-5 Calle de Alcala, Madrid, and addressed to a group of frozen meat importers at Auxias March 68, Barcelona. The other two are replies from this group to Bidegain.
2. According to the first letter, dated 3 December 1946, Bidegain has been approached by some Argentine persons with sound financial backing to arrange for the sale of large quantities of frozen meat in Spain, Italy and Switzerland. Instead of making arrangements on his own, Bidegain wrote to the Barcelona group, since, according to a note pencilled on the letter, only this group is authorized by the Spanish Government to import Argentine frozen meat. A reply from the group was received by Bidegain requesting that he set a date for a meeting with its members in Barcelona.
3. The second letter from Bidegain to the group included a copy of the offer from the Argentine, which was dated 17 December 1946 and signed by Menemarts and Fay. Source believed these names to be assumed. Source relates from memory the following points of the proposal:
 - a. A combine is to be formed in Spain for the purchase of meat for consumption throughout Continental Europe.
 - b. A combine is to be formed in Argentina to purchase this meat. As there is already a committee which is charged with the disposal of Argentine meat, it should be relatively easy to obtain legal authorization for the combine organization. A brother of the Madrid intermediary, Bidegain, is on the Argentine committee and will furnish the names of its members when necessary.
 - c. These two combines are to be united in an international group to be known as the Consorcio Hispano-Argentino de Carnes, with Bidegain as the intermediary between the Argentine combine and the Spanish one, since he is trusted by the Argentine group. A delegate is to be sent from the Spanish combine to Buenos Aires to arrange for receiving the meat, and to pass on its quantity and quality.
 - d. As the Spanish Government does not have sufficient foreign exchange to pay for the allotment of 20,000 tons assigned to it for 1947, funds must be

CLASSIFICATION

Document No.

NO CHANGE in Class.

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77

77/1763

Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000300510009-1

Date: 26 APR 1978 By: 80

SECRET CONTROL

This document is hereby regarded as
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1963 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2003

Extracted by F.I.R.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

- 2 -

acquired for payment in Argentine money. Therefore it would be convenient to bring in as members of the combine the Banco Hispano Americano, the Banco Bilbao, or some other such organization possessing sufficient funds to cover the payments.

- e. Information is requested on the component members of the Spanish combine, their monetary resources, both collective and individual. The Argentine combine reserves the right to withhold consent on the participation of persons whom it does not consider suitable. A reciprocal privilege will be extended to the Spanish combine in reference to the Argentine one.
 - f. After the Spanish combine is formed and its members approved, the director of the Banco Central Argentino will guarantee all the members of the Argentine combine, and that bank will be responsible to the Spanish combine for all credit operations that may be undertaken.
 - g. The quantities of Argentine meat of all varieties available for disposal is estimated at 400,000 tons for the first year, with a possibility of an increase up to 800,000 tons. If the figure is increased to 800,000 tons, the quota of some other country will have to be revised.
 - h. Shipments are to made in installments of 8,000 tons.
 - i. As Spain does not possess any port with sufficient (refrigeration) capacity for the quantity involved, the shipments are to be divided among several ports until installations can be constructed.
 - j. The Spanish combine is to ensure that in every port where merchandise is unloaded, there are sufficient refrigerated freight cars and trucks for handling it.
4. The reply by the group to E. Bidegain, dated 21 December 1946, indicates acceptance of the proposal in principle. The letter states that at the next meeting of the group a committee will be appointed to meet Bidegain in Madrid to obtain more detailed information from him.

~~SECRET~~ CONTROL
U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of The Espionage Act, 50 U.S.C. 31 and 32, as amended. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~